



May 3, 2010

IVHInsights

NEWS FROM PERSONNEL SERVICES

by Dennis Mack

Upcoming DAS Benefit Education Presentations:

May 5 – Continuing

Benefits at Retirement

May 11 – Deferred

Compensation Distributions

May 19 – Overview of

IPERS

May 20 – Wellness:

Managing Stress

May 25 – Deferred

Compensation Basics

May 26 – Continuing

Benefits at Retirement

Employees can register

for a presentation(s)

or see upcoming

presentations at the

DAS Benefit Education

website at

http://benefits.iowa.gov/benefit_education/.



Commandant's Corner

I would like to thank all of you for the many kindnesses you have extended to me and for all the work that you have completed during the past year. It was my honor to serve with you even if it was only on a temporary basis. As you know, Dennis Mack has been named Interim Commandant while the search for a permanent leader continues. I would ask all of you to extend to him the courtesy and positive working relationship that you extended to me.

It is my hope that you each continue to implement our Mission of Caring. Because this is our mission, I hope that you continue to look for ways to improve the living environment for our residents. Some of the things that we have begun are the Rounding Program, the Culture Change efforts

and expanding participation in PNA. It is my belief that each one of these initiatives results in a better living environment for our residents. I would urge you to continue to look at ways to improve the environment for our residents.

I recognize that some of you may worry about the future, given the early retirements, State budget concerns and lack of a permanent Commandant. I would remind you that we have been through all of these issues in the past and have prevailed. There is no question that the staff and supporters of IVH will do so in the future. Having been a part of your agency for the past year, I do see the talent and strength you have. As I have said many times, I am convinced that IVH is in good hands.

John Mathes



Caring.
Our only reason for being

May is "IVH Appreciation Month"

In May, the IVH Community takes National Nursing Home Week and National Nurses Week and combines them into an entire month of fun, celebration, and recognition. Many events are planned for the residents, families, staff, volunteers, and community members (please refer to the calendar of events on page 4).

Pictured above: Interim Commandant Dennis Mack (left) congratulates John Mathes (right) on his retirement. Mack assumed his role as Commandant on May 1.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH *by Patti Sharp*

May TB Tests

All employees with May birthdays whose last names begin with letters A through L are required to have a TB test. The test will be administered in Employee Health on the following date and time:
Monday, 05/03/10
6:15 AM to 8:30 AM
2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

The test will be read on:
Thursday, 05/06/10
6:15 AM to 8:30 AM
2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

If you need to make other arrangements, contact Teresa Keith at ext. #507. Testing must be completed by the end of the month.



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Editor

Lisa Purvis—PR/Marketing
To submit news or questions,
please email:
ivhinsights@ivh.state.ia.us
Call ext. 4397 or
send to PR/Mktg Dept.

News from Continuous Improvement *by Ann Hogle*

Rounding

As you know, nursing units are participating in resident rounding. Many units have been rounding for over six months. Remember, the major goals associated with resident rounding include: increasing resident satisfaction; decreasing falls; and decreasing the number of call lights. In the next month members from the Rounding Workgroup will be attending resident meetings to get feedback. Please be prepared to discuss your thoughts on rounding and how it has benefited those involved.

Nursing Unit Coordinators (NUC's)

Six IVH NUCS will be retiring by the end of June. That leaves quite a deficit for coverage on the units. The current NUC's are developing a plan of action and working with unit supervisors to help identify other staff who could assist with some of the duties (e.g., identifying what supplies need to be ordered, etc). These folks are embracing the fact that they will be covering much more than their own unit. So, please be prepared to help a NUC if you see them buried in paperwork.

Kaizen

The next IVH Kaizen is going to be on the current practices in the Quartermaster and Central Supply areas. They are also losing staff to retirements. This Kaizen is aimed at finding a way for the two departments to work together and improve efficiencies.

The Kaizen will be scheduled to create the least disruption to services possible. You will receive information about ordering before the event is held.

If you have any thoughts on issues surrounding this topic please send them to me in the Performance Improvement Department or via e-mail. They will be shared with the team.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Employee Survey

If you've been to the Blitz and haven't taken the employee survey, please do so. The link is on SharePoint under "links to applications." Your voice is important. If you want a hard copy, your supervisor can provide one.

Training Information *by Wayne Pierson*

There have been many occasions recently when Webcasts from the state have been available to employees. The webcast information comes out as an e-mail that may be sent to all state employees. The sessions are limited in participation to around 50 sites. Each registration received is considered "one site" whether being viewed by one person at their computer or in a conference room with many attending. At IVH, I have registered and had the sessions open for groups to attend.

If you see topics that are of interest to you, please let me know and we will attempt to have the session shown as described. Some sessions are recorded by the State and also made available for individual viewing on the computer.

I have made a video recording of the recent "Overview of IPERS" and have two DVD's with handouts available. Please contact the Training Office at ext. 4237 for help with any webcasts you are interested in.

Admissions Department *by Doug Freeman*

Who was Johnny Green? A square monument that stands in the Iowa Veterans Home cemetery is unusual in that it doesn't fit the pattern of the simple white upright markers that perpetuate the graves of the cemetery. The monument was moved there only 50 years ago, in spite of the fact that the man whose death it marks died in 1868. The monument was first erected June 30, 1918, by the Historical Society of Marshall County on a bluff overlooking the Iowa River, and was then moved to its present site in 1957 by the Historical Society. If it hadn't been for Johnny Green, Marshall County's small band of first settlers quite possibly would have been raided by hostile Sioux Indians. Green is credited with first spotting Sioux warriors encamped near what is now Fort Dodge. Two controversies exist regarding Green: whether his Indian name was Che-Meuse or Wai-wai-wa; and whether he was buried on a bluff which is a short distance inside the Iowa Veterans Home north-south boundary or whether he was buried north of where the Commandants home stood, on the bluff where the Historical Society's marker is placed.

Know any honorably discharge veterans in need of the best nursing care available? If so, the Admission Office would be happy to discuss the application process and all the services that IVH provides. Currently IVH has a lengthy waiting list for residential level of care but not for nursing level of care. What is the definition of nursing home care? The Veterans Administration defines it as: the accommodations of convalescents or other persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of hospital care, but who require skilled or intermediate nursing care and related medical services if such nursing care and medical services are prescribed by, or are performed under the general direction of, persons duly licensed to provide such care. IVH Policy 201 defines level of care for this facility. **Admissions questions? Call the Admissions Office at ext 4325.**

Retirements in the Rehab Services Department



Cathy Manning is an Activity Specialist 1 on Sheeler 3E. She began employment at IVH in 1980. Cathy is married, has two children, and four grandchildren. Cathy is looking forward to spending time with her grandchildren, working on projects that have been put aside, and traveling to destinations such as Ireland and Hawaii.

Cathy's fondest memory of her employment is a three-day camping trip to Camp Sunnyside that she organized for the residents that included swimming, campfires, boating, archery, and more.

Cathy has also been responsible for the IVH Choir and has led them in performing at the State Capitol. Cathy has developed a therapeutic recreation program that has served the special clientele on her unit well. You might see them anywhere from the Botanical Center to Hickory Park. Cathy has also been a leader in the area of documentation for her department. We are going to miss her, but wish her the very best in her retirement.

Janet Jordebrek is a Resident Aide in the Open Gym. Janet began employment at IVH in 1994. She had been a stay-at-home mom when she got a call about a temporary position in the Open Gym. She did this for 10 years and then became a permanent IVH employee.

Janet is married and has two grown children. She also has three grandchildren that she is looking forward to spending more time with. Janet's hobbies include collecting Longaberger baskets, sewing, cooking, baking, and she thinks a little travel would be nice, too. The thing that she is going to miss the most is the residents. She tears up as she says, "You get close to these guys." And she does touch so many lives every day as she chats away, pushing residents in wheelchairs all day long. Janet never stops working. We are going to miss her very much.



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

by Mark Freland

Resident Gardeners



Spring is finally here and our grass and trees are beginning to sprout and show some life again! Residents will soon be starting to plant their gardens and flowers around the campus. Residents who have interest in selling their produce to the Food Service Department can acquire a produce price list from Food and Nutrition Services across from the Kopper Kettle from May 24th throughout the rest of the summer. The price list will also be available in the main floor Heinz Hall office area after May 24th. We would love to see a huge crop of fresh tomatoes and other vegetables from our residents this year!



IVH Website Calendar

Submit your event information on the IVH website calendar. It's quick and easy and the calendar is available to staff, residents, and the community. Log on to www.iowaveteranshome.org and click on "Calendar" to begin.

Upcoming Events

May is "IVH Appreciation Month"

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues	5/4	9:30am-12pm	Mini-Olympics	Malloy LRC
Wed	5/12	9-10 am	"An Overview of Hepatitis C"	Whitehill Auditorium
		10 am-1 pm	BBQ/Games/Parking Spot Silent Auction	Malloy LRC
Thurs	5/13	9 am-3 pm	Jerry's Barnyard	Malloy Courtyard
		10 am-2 pm	Kettle Corn by Caryn	Malloy LRC
Tues	5/18	10 am	Pie Contest	Malloy LRC
		12 pm	Pie & Parking Auction	Malloy LRC
Thurs	5/20	1:30-3:30 pm	Ice Cream Social and Music by Deuces Wild	Atha Dining Room
Fri	5/21	2 pm	Patriotic Bingo – American Legion Auxiliary	Atha Dining Room
Mon	5/24	10 am-1 pm	REAL Committee Mini-Donuts	Malloy Courtyard
		11 am-1 pm	Ride to the Wall – motorcycle show	Malloy Courtyard
Wed	5/26	9 am-3 pm	Oscar's Tractor Show, Funnel Cakes	Malloy Courtyard
		1pm	Bert & Matt	Malloy LRC
Thurs	5/27	9:30 am	Patriot Singers	Malloy LRC
Mon	5/31	11 am	IVH Memorial Day Program	Malloy LRC

Announcements

Thank you to the staff and friends that contributed money, words and thoughts of sympathy in the recent death of my father, Dr. E. Keith Lowary. Memorial funds will be used for a memorial scholarship in my father's name for a high school senior that will be given out annually pursuing a career in health care. Kathy Fuller

Thanks to all who took the time to participate in the blood drive on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. 39 people attended, 22 donated whole blood, 8 donated double red cells and there were 3 first-time blood donors. Total blood collected 38 units. The next drive is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29. Jim Elliott

Retirements in the Rehab Services Department by Penny Cutler-Bermudez



Steve Bennett is an Activity Specialist 1 on Dack 2. Steve began his employment with IVH in Custodial Services. After 10 years he went back to finish his degree and returned as a Recreation Therapist.

Steve is former Marine, and he has a heart for Veterans. Steve's wife, Eui, also works at IVH as a RTW on Dack 2. Steve is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and relatives, hunting and fishing, traveling, reading, volunteering, taking some college courses, and lots of yard work. He looks at each day as a gift.

Steve's fondest memories include when his co-worker Cathy Manning informed him that he had to dress up like a lady for his first Halloween party in the Recreation Department, and having a resident tell him that he was the first one to make her feel like this was her home. He has a nice way of knowing when a resident just needs someone to sit down beside them and listen. You will often see Steve pull up a chair in the hallway and chat. Steve has offered a huge variety of activities

for his unit and tries to include everything his residents would enjoy from ice hockey, tractor pulls, plays, and of course the wonderful breakfasts. Steve leaves us with this thought: "There are many difficult challenges, but the main thing is that it is essential to listen." How true. I wish Steve the very best and I know I join the Dack 2 residents in saying, "You will be missed."

Ellen Hutchinson, better known as Hawkeye Ellen, is one of a kind. She is a spunky, 75-year-old, fashion statement, who brings sunshine into the lives of both the residents and staff at IVH. You can often hear her from quite a distance saying, "Don't I look good?" or "How about those Hawks!" The good news is she plans to continue brightening our lives as a Volunteer.

Ellen began employment at IVH in 1982 in the Dietary Department. After 10 years the department was contracted out and she worked for this company for six years. In 1998 she began working as a Utility Worker for the Nursing Department taking residents to appointments and shopping. She loves her job, loves the residents, and loves the people that she works side by side with. Her fondest memory is when she brought back a cap for a resident that a fan at the bowl game in Florida donated when she told him she knew a Veteran at IVH that would love to have a cap like his. (He was cheering for the other team.) The resident was tickled. She loves giving residents hugs and letting them know that she cares.

Ellen is married, has 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. She is looking forward to more Iowa football games, as well as spending time with friends and family. She is ready for the next chapter and wants to continue loving life. Thank you, Ellen, for sharing such a large portion of your life with us.

